

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 11 and 13 - 23 remain in the present application.

Drawings

The present Office Action acknowledges the Applicant submitted drawings that were entered into the file on 9 April 2001. However, the present Office Action indicates the drawings are no longer in the file and requests Applicant to resubmit the drawings previously filed. Applicant has included a copies of the 15 sheets of drawings previously submitted on December 27, 2000 and Applicant respectfully asserts no new subject matter is included.

Allowable subject matter.

The preset Office Action indicates that Claims 1 – 10 and 18 – 23 are allowed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing Claims 1 –10 and 18 –23.

The preset Office Action also indicates that Claims 12 - 17 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the allowable subject matter and has rewritten independent Claim 11 to include the elements and limitations of Claim 12.

102 Rejections

In the above referenced Office Action, Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Horiuchi et al. U.S. Patent 5,388,056. Claims 12 - 17 are stated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their respective base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 12 depends from independent

Claim 11. Accordingly, Applicant has herein amended Claim 11 to include the limitations of Claim 12 to comply with the allowable subject matter indication. Consequently, Applicant respectfully asserts that Claim 11 overcomes the stated 35 U.S.C section 102 (b) rejection and remaining Claims 13 - 17 are allowable as depending from an allowable independent claim and are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In light of the above-listed amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the remaining Claims. The examiner is urged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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